Control Rooms to Monitor PDS

799. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States and Union Territories have been asked to set up Control rooms in each district to monitor Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the consumers under PDS can report to these control rooms for malpractices in their respective Fair Price Shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith of each control room in the country district-wise alongwith their telephone numbers;

(e) whether Government propose to advise consumers to make complaints with these control rooms for non-availability of PDS items in the first week of every relevant month; and

(f) if so, details thereof with functions of such control rooms in these circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up district-wise control rooms where the consumers could report non-availability of public Distribution System (PDS) commodities and malpractices by Fair Price Shopkeepers and by unscrupulous traders. They have been requested to give wide publicity in this regard to the telephone numbers, name, designation and address of the control room officers. They have also been requested to ensure extensive dissemination of information about the quantities and prices at which such essential commodities are being made available, on a regular basis, through the electronic media. Since the operational responsibility of implementing the Public Distribution System rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations, the details of such control rooms, district-wise, are not maintained by the Central Government.

Reports regarding shortage of commodities at shops under PDS

800. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of adequate stocks of foodgrains, there were regular of shortage of rice, wheat, and sugar at various shops under PDS in Delhi, Rajasthan and Orissa apart from supply of substandard quality of foodgrains under PDS;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take to revamp/strengthen the PDS in the country by ensuring regular supply during 1995-96; and

(c) whether Government have decided to exclude income-tax payers in Delhi and elsewhere from purview of PDS, if so, details thereof statewise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Central Government make bulk allocations of six key essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, soft coke and kerosene to States/UTs for distribution through fair price shops through the Public Distribution System (PDS). It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs to further distribtue the allocated quantities to consumers as part of their